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ABSTRACT

Designed to introduce students to some of the basic bibliographic tools in American history available in the Fogler Library at the University of Maine, this guide begins by listing examples of relevant Library of Congress Subject Headings and providing brief explanations of the call numbers and classification systems (Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal) used in Fogler Library. It then lists and describes information sources in 16 categories: abstracts; atlases; bibliographies; biographical sources; card catalog; dictionaries; dissertations; encyclopedias; government documents (bibliographies and guides); handbooks; indexes; manuscripts; microform research collections; newspapers; style manuals; and subject headings. Brief annotations accompany the majority of the examples cited. A concluding notation informs students that additional information sources available to them include computer searches, a computer print-out listing specific periodical holdings in American history, and the assistance of a reference librarian. (CGD)

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GUIDE TO SOURCES: AMERICAN HISTORY

SCOPE

This guide is designed to introduce the student to some of the basic bibliographic tools in American history found in Fogler Library. It is not intended to be a complete list, but rather a selective introduction to the many sources of information available to the beginning researcher.

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CARD CATALOG

Access to books and other library materials can be gained by using the card catalog which functions as an index to a major portion of the resources in Fogler Library.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Each book or item included in the card catalog has an author card, a title card, and one or more subject cards. There are many subject headings relating to American history. A few examples are noted below:

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
FRONTIER AND PIONEER LIFE
MAINE - HISTORY
POPULISM
PURITANS
UNITED STATES - HISTORY - WAR OF 1898

CALL NUMBERS AND CLASSIFICATION

Most of the books in Fogler Library are classified in the Library of Congress (LC) classification system which is based upon letter and number combinations. An LC call number is illustrated below.

Ref	Location symbol - Indicates the book is shelved in Reference area
E	Class - History of America
186	Subclass - Colonial history
S79	Derived from author's name

There are still volumes in the Library classified in the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) which was used in Fogler Library prior to 1967. These books, though older, may still be useful. All call numbers, LC or

IR052303

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CALL NUMBERS AND CLASSIFICATION (cont.)

DDC, are printed on the upper left corner of the catalog card. Directional signs by the card catalog indicate book locations throughout the building.

LC CLASSIFICATION OUTLINE FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

E	11-29	America (General)
	31-46	North America
	51-99	Indians. Indians of North America
	101-135	Discovery of America and early explorations
		UNITED STATES (General)
	184-185	Elements in the population
	185	Negroes
	186-199	Colonial History
	201-298	Revolution
	301-453	Revolution to the Civil War
	351-364	War of 1812
	401-415	War with Mexico
	441-453	Slavery
	456-655	Civil War
	482-489	Confederate States of America
	660-738	Late nineteenth century
	714-735	Spanish-American War
	740	Twentieth century
F	1-975	United States local history
	1001-1140	British America. Canada
	1201-1392	Mexico

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

There are numerous publications which function as guides to the literature of American history. Critical or annotated bibliographies are frequently useful in choosing and evaluating material on a particular topic. A few of the more useful bibliographic guides are identified below.

Ref Z 6201 A55
American Historical Association. Guide to Historical Literature. 1961.
One of the standard guides to world history. A well-annotated bibliography of treatises and source materials arranged by geographic area, time period, and topic. Section on Americas can be profitable.

Ref Z 1236 A1 B4
Beers, Henry Putney. Bibliographies in American History: Guide to Materials for Research. 1973 reprint of 1942 ed.
A preferred, though dated, guide to bibliographies in American history. Unannotated classified listing of over 11,000 titles covering the whole range of American history from general aids and the colonial period to cartography and genealogy. Continued by Bibliographies in American History, 1942-1978. Ref Z 1236 B39 1982.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES (cont.)

Ref Z 1236 N4
Bibliographic Guide to North American History. Annual. 1977+
Preface: Lists "... publications cataloged by The Research Libraries of the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress for thorough subject coverage." An important bibliographic series for American history.

Ref Z 1236 H27
Freidel, Frank, ed. Harvard Guide to American History. 2 vols. rev. ed., 1974.
The basic working bibliography for American history. Encompasses economic, social, scientific, cultural, diplomatic, and political history as well as research methodology and personal records. Covers books and journal articles. Vol. 1 is largely topical, vol. 2 is chronological. Name and subject indexes.

Ref Z 1291 C65
Haskell, John D. Jr., ed. Maine: A Bibliography of Its History. 1977.
Recent comprehensive bibliography organized by geographic unit. Cut-off date for listings is December 1975. Maine is considered in terms of its present boundaries. Subject access via index.

Ref Z 1250 U59
Kaminkov, Marion J., ed. United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress. 4 vols. 1975.
This bibliography is the modified shelf list of the Library of Congress's local history collection - the best such collection in existence. Entries arranged by state on a regional basis.

Ref Z 6201 P65
Poulton, Helen J. Historian's Handbook. 1972.
A guide to basic reference sources in all areas of history. Excellent starting point for the student or beginning researcher.

Ref Z 1035.1 S43 (Information Desk)
Sheehy, Eugene P. Guide to Reference Books. 10th ed., 1986.
Authorative guide to reference materials in all subject fields including American studies. Helpful annotations and index. Heavily used by reference librarians.

Ref Z 1215 U53
U.S. Library of Congress. Guide to the Study of the United States of America. 1960. Supplement, 1976.
Subtitle: "Representative books reflecting the development of American life and thought." Thirty-two chapters in the base volume on such topics as population, travel, entertainment, religion, sports, art, medicine, and military history cover over 6,400 titles. Annotations. Supplement brings coverage up to 1965.

Ref Z 1236 L331
Writings on American History, (1902-1961). Annual. 1904-1978.
Indispensible annual bibliography attempting to note all books and articles of value for the study of U.S. history. Many annotations. Some

BIBLIOGRAPHIES (cont.)

publishing irregularities and alterations in scope and format through the years. The 1961 volume was the last published in this series.

Ref Z 1236 L332
Writings on American History: A Subject Bibliography of Articles (1962-). Annual. 1976+.
An important serial bibliography which attempts to fill part of the vacuum created by the demise of the earlier Writings. Based largely upon the "Recently Published Articles" section of the American Historical Review. No annotations. More recent volumes have included some dissertations.

Ref Z 1236 W773
Writings on American History 1962-73: A Subject Bibliography of Books and Monographs. 10 vols. 1985.
Introduction: "... a comprenensive listing of the book-length works published from 1962 to 1975 that are relevant to the study of American history."

ATLASES

Ref G 1201 S1 J3
Jackson, Kenneth T., ed. Atlas of American History. 2nd. rev. ed., 1984
May be used to locate places mentioned in the Dictionary of American History. Emphasizes exploration, the frontier, territorial organization, and extension of communications. Original 1943 edition edited by James Truslow Adams.

Ref Folio G 1201 S1P32
Paullin, Charles O. Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States. 1932.
Encompasses exploration, Indians, population and settlement, politics, cultural development, economic history, city plans, world relationships, military history, and the natural environment. Descriptive text and reproductions of old maps also included.

BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Ref E 176 A65
Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography. 6 vols. 1887-1889.
Substantial articles on notable nonliving Americans and foreigners closely tied to U.S. history. Entries sometimes inaccurate but useful for personalities not included in the Dictionary of American Biography.

Ref E 176 D56
Dictionary of American Biography. 20 vols. 1943 reprint of 1928-1937 ed.
Scholarly biographical studies of prominent people of all periods who lived in the United States. Does not include living persons. Index. Seven supplements brings coverage up to 1965.

Ref E 176 N28
National Cyclopedia of American Biography. 63 vols. 1891 - 1984.
The most comprehensive U.S. biographical series. Fairly lengthy articles. Less selective and less objective than the Dictionary of American Biography. First 50 vols. on microfiche.

BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES (cont.)

Ref E 663 W54
Who Was Who In America: Historical Volume 1607 - 1896. rev. ed., 1967.
Who Was Who In America. 1987+ c. 1942+
Concise biographical sketches of deceased individuals who made a significant contribution to U.S. history. Includes Americans and citizens from foreign countries.

Ref F 3 W61
Who's Who In New England. 4 vols. 1909 - 1949.
Brief biographical entries for leading New Englanders.

DISSERTATIONS

Index AS 30 M5
Dissertation Abstracts International. Monthly. 1938+.
Abstracts of dissertations submitted to University Microfilms International by a varying number of institutions. Subject and author indexes. Vol. 1-14, 1938-1954 on microfilm in Microforms area. D632.

Ref Z 6201 K8
Kuehl, Warren F., ed. Dissertations in History. 3 vols. 1965-1985.
Subtitle: "An Index to Dissertations Completed in History Departments of United States & Canadian Universities." Covers the period from 1873 to June 1980.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS, DICTIONARIES, HANDBOOKS, etc.

E 173 A793
Annals of America. 20 vols. 1968 - 1971.
A chronological encyclopedia made up of reprinted original source materials.

Ref E 173 C66
Commager, Henry Steele, ed. Documents in American History. 8th ed., 1968
Compilation of noteworthy documents from 1492 to 1966. Includes charters, court cases, acts, constitutions, speeches, proclamations, etc. Convenient source.

Ref E 174 A43
Dictionary of American History. 8 vols. rev. ed., 1976.
Clear, concise articles on all aspects of American history except biography. Very brief bibliographies. Recently revised. James Truslow Adams edited the 1st edition.

Ref HA 202 B87
Historical Statistics of the United States. 2 vols. 1975.
Comparative historical statistics from colonial times to 1970.

Ref E 174 J6
Johnson, Thomas H. The Oxford Companion to American History. 1966.
Handy one volume source providing brief articles on lives, events, activities, and places prominent in American history.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS, DICTIONARIES, HANDBOOKS, etc. (cont.)

Ref E 174.5 M847
Morris, Richard B., ed. Encyclopedia of American History.
Bicentennial ed., 1976.
More a handbook of chronology than a conventional encyclopedia.

MANUSCRIPTS

Ref CD 3020 U54
Directory of Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the United States. 1978
A guide to 3,250 repositories. Description of holdings quite limited.

Ref CD 3022 A45
Hamer, Philip M., ed. Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States. 1961.
Not a union catalog or complete listing but a guide to 1,300 depositories and 20,000 collections of archival and manuscript holdings in the United States and its territories.

Ref Z 6620 U5 N3
National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. 1959 - 1961+.
National register of manuscript collections found in repositories throughout the U.S. Collections listed include letters, memoranda, accounts, diaries, log books, drafts, and, since 1970, oral history interview transcripts and sound recordings.

MICROFORM RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

Am3 (Microform Area)
American Culture Series.
The Bibliography of American Culture 1493-1875 (Z 1215 A585) edited by David R. Weimer was published in 1957 as a list of basic source materials for the study of American civilization and to encourage interdisciplinary work in American culture. The complete text of most titles listed in Weimer, which were originally published before 1800, is available on microfilm as American Culture Series I. This collection offers a broad survey of the 19th century. American Culture Series II furnishes the text of 5,000 books and pamphlets in the humanities, social sciences, and natural and physical sciences originally published between 1801 and 1875 and now largely inaccessible. Many items in Weimer which were reprinted or revised after 1900 are not incorporated in the microfilm series as they are generally available elsewhere. A guide for using the American Culture 1493 - 1875 collections is available in Information Services (Ref Z 1215 A583).

Microform Area
American Periodical Series.
More than 1,100 periodicals published from 1741 to 1900 are included in University Microfilms International's American Periodical Series. The series is divided into three collections: "American Periodicals, 18th century;" "American Periodicals, 1800-1850;" and "American Periodicals, 1850-1900, Civil War and Reconstruction." Fogler owns all titles in "American Periodicals, 18th Century." They are shelved as unit in the microfilm stacks under the collection title - "American Periodical Series 18th century." Fogler has incomplete holdings for the other two collections, "American Periodicals, 1800-1850" and "American Periodicals 1850 - 1900." Individual titles owned in these collections are shelved

MICROFORM RESEARCH COLLECTIONS (cont.)

under their respective titles in the microfilm stacks. Jean Hoornstra's American Periodicals 1741-1900: An Index to the Microfilm Collection; (Microfroms Z 6951 H65) is a very useful guide to these collections and Fogler's holdings are clearly marked.

Microforms Service Desk
Early American Imprints, 1639 - 1800.
The most important general list of early American publications is Charles Evans' American Bibliography covering the period 1639 to 1800. Evans encompasses books, pamphlets, and periodicals in a chronological arrangement. The complete text of 42,000 of these items has been reproduced on microprint. Call for these items at the Service Desk. The cards are identified and arranged by numbers found in Evans (Ref Z 1215 E92) and Roger Bristol's supplement to Evans (Ref 1215 E92 Supp.). These bibliographies contain author, classified subject, and printer/publisher indexes.

Microforms Service Desk
Early American Imprints, Second Series. 1801 - 1819.
American Bibliography: A Preliminary Checklist for 1801 - 1819 by Ralph R. Shaw and Richard H. Shoemaker (Ref Z 1215 S48) is intended to be the first step in covering the period in U.S. national bibliography between 1800 when Evans stops and 1820. 50,000 titles from this bibliography up through 1805 are available on microprint at the Microforms Service Desk. Access is by identification numbers found in Shaw and Shoemaker. Shaw and Shoemaker contains title and author indexes.

Microforms Service Desk
Early American Newspapers, 1704-1820.
This collection consists of microprint reproductions of obtainable issues of newspapers listed in Clarence S. Brigham's History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690 - 1820 (Ref Z 6951 B86). Each newspaper included in this collection is listed by title in the Library's card catalog.

Microfilm R 245 (Microform Area)
Records of the States of the United States.
An extensive microfilm collection of early state records particularly rich in the colonial and early national periods. It includes reproductions of legislative, legal, constitutional, court, executive, and administrative records. The Library does not own all of the microfilm in this series. A Guide to the Microfilm Collection of Early State Records (Ref Z 1223.5 A1 U47) and its supplement serve as an index to this material and indicate Fogler's holdings.

NEWSPAPERS

Ref Z 6945 A53
Gregory, Winifred, ed. American Newspapers, 1821 - 1936. 1937.
Reports the holdings of newspapers from 1821 to 1936 found in over 5,000 repositories throughout the United States and Canada. Arranged geographically by place of publication. Very useful for identifying and verifying newspaper titles.

NEWSPAPERS (cont.)

Ref Z 6951 B86
Brigham, Clarence S. History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690 - 1820. 2 vols. 1947.
A geographical listing of 2,120 newspapers published between 1690 and 1820 together with holdings information for depositories throughout the country.

STYLE MANUALS

Ref LB 2369 C3 (Information Desk)
Campbell, William G. and Stephen V. Ballou. Form and Style: Theses, Reports, Term Papers. 7th ed., 1986.
A standard guide.

Ref LB 2369 T8 (Information Desk)
Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. 4th ed., 1973.
One of the most popular manuals. Helpful for graduates.

Ref LB 2369 T82
Turabian, Kate L. Student's Guide for Writing College Papers.
3rd ed., 1976.
Convenient guide for undergraduates.

INDEXES AND ABSTRACTS

The latest information on many topics, and often the only information on recent developments, will be found in periodical literature or related publications such as official documents, conference proceedings, and pamphlets. Such publications are generally inaccessible through the card catalog. Indexes and abstracts are the keys to this type of literature. An index is usually arranged by subject and provides a citation to a particular article. An abstracting service offers similar information but includes a short summary or description of the article. The indexes and abstracts described below should be of interest to the student of American history. Most of them are located in the Reference Area.

Index E 31 E48
American History and Life. 1964+.
Provides abstracts and bibliographic citations of articles concerning the history and culture of the United States and Canada.

Index D 299 H5
Historical Abstracts. 1955+.
Offers abstracts and bibliographic references for articles on political, diplomatic, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual history from 1775-1945 found in worldwide journals. Materials of largely local interest not included. The U.S. and Canada are excluded after 1964.

Index AI 3 H85 (Index Table - Reference Area)
Humanities Index. 1974+.
Index to scholarly English language periodical literature in such subject fields as history, area studies, archaeology, and political criticism. From 1907 to 1919 it was known as Readers' Guide Supplement and from 1920 to mid-1965 as International Index. Between mid-1965 and 1973 it was called Social Sciences and Humanities Index.

INDEXES AND ABSTRACTS (cont.)

Index AI 21 N44 (Index Table - Reference Area)
New York Times Index. 1851+.
Comprehensive index to the New York Times from its beginning in 1851. Gives a brief summary of articles. The scope of the New York Times is so wide that the index frequently serves as a guide to locating information in other newspapers.

Index AI 3 R48 1890 - 1899
Nineteenth Century Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature. 1890 - 1899.
Author, title, subject, and illustrator index to 51 periodicals largely in the time period 1890 - 1899.

Index AI 3 P7
Poole's Index to Periodical Literature. 1802 - 1906.
Subject index only to articles in 479 general American and English periodicals. Invaluable tool for using 19th century periodical literature.

Index AI 3 R48 (Index Table - Reference Area)
Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature. 1900+.
Well known index to popular, general American periodicals. Older volumes are located in the index stacks.

Index AI 3 S62 (Index Table - Reference Area)
Social Sciences Index. 1974+.
Index to scholarly periodical literature in the social sciences and related fields. Before 1974 known as Social Sciences and Humanities Index.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Special Collections Department, located on the third floor, is one of the primary resources for the study of Maine. This area houses the State of Maine Collection; the Clinton Cole Maritime History Collection; Maine state government publications; the University of Maine Archives; the University Collection (publications, records, theses, & dissertations of University students and faculty); and many periodicals, newspapers, maps, manuscripts, and business records related to Maine history. The Department maintains its own card catalog which should be consulted by anyone interested in Maine history.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Fogler Library is a regional depository for U.S. federal government publications and a selective depository for Canadian federal documents. This collection represents a major resource for history, foreign relations, political studies, statistics, maps, public administration, law, and social studies.

Most government publications circulate overnight. Questions concerning government documents should be directed to the librarians at the Information Desk. The following titles may be helpful when consulting U.S. federal documents.

Ref Docs. GP 3.2:C4V2 (Reference Area)
Checklist of United States Public Documents, 1789 - 1909. 1962 reprint of 1911 ed.
An important retrospective bibliography.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS (cont.)

SU Doc X/a: (open Documents Stacks)
Congressional Record. 1873+.
The closest thing we have to a verbatim account of Congressional debate and action. It was called Annals of Congress from the 18th Congress - 2nd Session through the 25th Congress - 1st Session, and Congressional Globe from the 23rd Congress - 1st Session through the 42nd Congress. Legislators may read into the Record speeches, editorials, and other comments which were never made on the floor. Texts of bills and resolutions introduced are usually not included. These may be found in the House Journal and Senate Journal also available in Government Documents.

Index Table - Reference Area
Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications. 1895+.
The major bibliographic finding aid for U.S. government publications. Arranged by issuing agency. No Abstracts. Monthly and cumulative indexes.

Ref Z 1223 Z7S3
Schmeckebier, Laurence F. and Eastin, Roy B. Government Publications and Their Use. 2nd rev. ed., 1969.
Convenient guide to U.S. government publications. Useful for tracing publishing histories and answering a variety of bibliographic questions.

You may want to know...

that the Library subscribes to well over 50 journals in American history and related fields. A computer printout indicating Fogler's periodical holdings in American history may be consulted at the Information Desk.

that a computer search may be run on your topic. Check with a Reference Librarian who will tell you how this is done and what it will cost.

that a Reference Librarian will help you with the materials described in this guide and with any other questions you have about the Library.

Compiled by Thomas H. Patterson
Fogler Library Information Services
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